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ABSTRACT

This fact sheet offers information on North Dakota's Head Start and Early Head Start programs, which are federally-funded comprehensive child development programs for income-eligible children and their families. The primary target population for these programs is children between the ages of 0 and 5; 5,176 such children and their families received Head Start services in the state in 2001-2002. The fact sheet presents four dynamic principles driving the Head Start philosophy, and highlights Head Start services in the areas of education, health, family services, and parent involvement. The fact sheet also provides North Dakota enrollment data, some findings from the Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey (FACES), and program contacts. (EV)

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North Dakota Head Start: Impact of Head Start and Early Head Start Programs in North Dakota, Fact Sheet 2001-2002.

North Dakota State Dept. of Human Services, Bismarck. Div. of Children and Family Services.

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HEAD START OF NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota Head Start

IMPACT OF HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS IN NORTH DAKOTA FACT SHEET 2001-2002

EARLY HEAD START

5,176 North Dakota income-eligible preschool children and families benefited from Head Start and Early Head Start services in 2001-2002. The programs operate with a budget of $22,330,857 federally-funded dollars and an additional $10,623,464 in matching in-kind services from the local communities. North Dakota is funded to serve 3067 children in Head Start/Early Head Start programs. The number of eligible children, under age 6, receiving Head Start/Early Head Start services in the state of North Dakota is 41.6%.

The primary goal of the North Dakota Head Start Association is to extend quality service to include more North Dakota children and families.

HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START

The nation's premier model in building children, families, and community.

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North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start

Head Start/Early Head Start in North Dakota is a federally-funded comprehensive child development program for income-eligible children and their families. The primary target population is children between the ages of 0-5. North Head Start programs adhere to the Federal Department of Health & Human Services Head Start Program Performance Standards.

THE HEAD START PHILOSOPHY IS DRIVEN BY FOUR DYNAMIC PRINCIPLES:

1. A child can benefit most from a comprehensive, interdisciplinary, developmentally appropriate program.
2. Parents are the primary educators of their children and are essential partners in the program.
3. The healthy development of children is inextricable linked to the well-being of the entire family and to future education success.
4. Partnerships with other agencies and organizations in the community are essential to meeting family needs.

Each Head Start Program Provides Comprehensive Services In The Following Areas:

EDUCATION

- Individualized Learning Plans
- Inclusion of Children with Special Needs
- Developmentally-Appropriate Curriculum
- School Readiness - Emphasis on Early Literacy

HEALTH

- Medical/Dental Screenings and Treatment
- Nutrition Services
- Mental Health
- Health Education

FAMILY SERVICES

- Links the Family to Community Resource
- Partners with Families in Goal Development

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- Leadership and Governing Responsibility
- Parent Participation throughout the Program
- Workshops and Other Training Opportunities

Community Partnerships - Across North Dakota, Head Start programs seek to develop collaborative relationships that eliminates duplication of services by working with the Head Start-State Collaboration Project, State, and local level service agencies.

2001-2002 Head Start & Early Head Start in North Dakota

ACTUAL ENROLLMENT BY AGE

Children 0-1 year old	36
Children 1 year old	82
Children 2 years old	94
Children 3 years old	990
Children 4 years old	1,450
Children 5 years old	254
Children 6 years old	1

RACIAL/ETHNIC COMPOSITION

American Indian	1,387
Hispanic	98
African American	98
Caucasian	1,863
Asian	12
Pacific Islander/Other	2

DOMINANT LANGUAGE COMPOSITION

English	730
Spanish	18
Asian Only	0
American Indian Only	0
Bosnian	6
Russian	1

FAMILY INFORMATION

Total children served	3,067
Children w/Health Insurance	1,884
Number of families served	3,109
Number of TANF families	712

HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD WHO ARE:

In school or training	471
Employed fill-time	1,817
Employed part-time	470
Unemployed	817

HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START STATISTICS

Centers in North Dakota	60
Total Staff	753
Total Number degreed teachers	117
Total Program Volunteer	6,058
Counties Served	46
Counties not Served	7
Total Number of Grantees	14
Total Number of Programs	19

FACES* Research has shown:

- Compared with results from six national research studies, Head Start classrooms have higher quality than most center-based early childhood programs.
- As determined in a national study of Head Start programs, research has shown that teachers with higher education levels are more sensitive and responsive to children's needs. Further, their classrooms have higher quality language activities and higher quality overall programming.
- At the end of the program year, the typical Head Start child possesses specific cognate and social skills that signify a readiness to learn in kindergarten.
- In kindergarten, Head Start children exceeded the growth expectations of a typical kindergartener. Head Start attendees showed significant gains in vocabulary, letter recognition, writing, and other pre-literacy skills.
- Children whose parents read to them on a daily basis have higher vocabulary scores. Most Head Start families reported reading to their child three or more times a week.
- Across the nation, more than 85% of Head Start families reported that Head Start had helped their children to grow socially and intellectually, and prepared their children to enter kindergarten.

*The Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey (FACES) was launched in Spring, 1997, is an integral part of Head Start's system of Program Performance Measures, an outcome-oriented accountability system.

North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start Makes a Difference

North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start Programs are located in three unique and distinct geographic areas: urban, rural, and frontier communities ranging in population from 767 to 123,138 (total state population of 642,200) and encompassing 68,976 square miles. There are 36 of 53 North Dakota Counties that are designated as Frontier (less than 6 persons per square mile). This number is based on 1999 Census Estimates.

North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start
...coming together to serve families.

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